Deterioration in quality in Telecom Services

*131. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rapid deterioration is service quality in telecom sector over the past few months;

(b) whether a committee of Telecom Regulatory authority was formed on this matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) formed a committee to analyse the actual position of congestion of traffic on Point of Interconnections (POIs).

(c) The committee visited three places and its observation include congestion between the Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAXs) of BSNL and Point of Interconnections (POIs) of Private Operators, heavy loading of Level 1 TAXs, non availability of direct connectivity between cellular network of BSNL and private operators.

(d) The review of inter operator traffic at POIs and network upgradation in terms of augmentation of equipment, re-routing of traffic is a continuous exercise taken up by the service providers within the framework of interconnect agreement between them.

STD/ISD/PCO booths in Assam

*133. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths set up in Assam during the last three years, District-wise;

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up in the State during the year 2006-07; and